

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /047 W

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R 261020Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7886

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 90

AMCONSUL BREMEN

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: FRENCH AND ITALIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLIES

REF: EC A-199 OF 5/22/70

1. THE COMMISSION RECENTLY RECOMMENDED TO FRANCE THAT IT ABOLISH ITS MONOPOLY'S DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF MANUFACTURED TOBACCO IMPORTS FROM THE NEW MEMBER STATES BY DEC. 31, 1977 (DETAILS BY AIRGRAM). SINCE A COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF APRIL 20, 1970 OBLIGATED FRANCE AND ITALY TO END THEIR MONOPOLIES' DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED TOBACCO BY JAN. 1, 1976 (SEE REFAIR), WE ASKED CHIPP, DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION FOR STATE MONOPOLIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE EC COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR COMPETITION, FOR AN EXPLANATION.

2. AFTER CHECKING WITH HIS COLLEAGUES INCLUDING LEGAL EXPERTS, CHIPP CONFIRMED THAT THE COMMISSION'S VIEW WAS THAT THE 1970 RESOLUTION IS TO BE READ IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 37 OF THE ROME TREATY, AS AFFECTING

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ONLY IMPORTS FROM THE SIX AND NOT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. HE EXPECTS

THAT THE FRENCH WILL ALSO LIBERALIZE VIS-A-VIS THE THREE
BY JAN. 1, 1976.

3. CHIPP DOES NOT EXPECT ITALY WILL MEET ITS OBLIGATION TO
LIBERALIZE TOBACCO IMPORTS FROM THE SIX BY 1976. THE COMMISSION
WILL SOON RECOMMEND THAT THE ITALIAN MONOPOLY SYSTEM JUST AS
THE FRENCH, NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST IMPORTS FROM THE THREE
AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1977. MYERSON

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